

# What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 30, 2002

## TRAFFIC FATALITIES IN DC PLUNGE NEARLY 30 PERCENT IN 2002

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The number of people killed in traffic crashes in DC plunged nearly 30 percent from 2001 to 2002, with a reduction in speeding-related fatalities helping to drive the trend. As of December 27, 2002, there were 50 traffic fatalities on District roads and highways in 2002. That compares with 71 fatalities in all of 2001, a decline of 29.6 percent. Excessive speed continues to be the leading cause of traffic fatalities in DC, accounting for at least 29 of the 50 fatalities this year (58 percent). However, the number of speeding-related crashes has declined from at least 38 in 2001. 2002 was the first full year of the MPDC's photo radar speeding reduction program, which has been shown to reduce speeds overall on DC roads and highways. A large percentage of the speeding-related fatalities in 2002 occurred during the late-night and early-morning hours, when photo radar is not operational. The MPDC is currently examining options for expanding overnight speed enforcement using both automated and traditional approaches.

*Another positive sign: none of the 50 traffic fatalities this year involved child victims. To help protect young passengers, the MPDC has begun enforcing DC's new child passenger safety law, which requires age-appropriate safety seats for all children under the age of 8. Details are available at [mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room).*

Four traffic fatalities this year involved red-light running. That is up from two in 2001, but still lower than the 6-9 red-light running fatalities that occurred annually in the mid- to late-1990s. For additional information on traffic safety in DC, including the MPDC's photo radar and red-light camera programs, click on:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm)

## NEW YEAR'S REMINDER: CELEBRATE ... BUT DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE IN DC

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Metropolitan Police officers will be out in force this New Year's Eve, looking for drunk drivers, speeders and other aggressive or unsafe drivers. In addition to a planned sobriety checkpoint, extra MPDC officers will be patrolling known trouble spots near club zones and heavily traveled roadways. While Class A and B liquor retailers will maintain their regular hours (9 am to 10 pm) on December 31, taverns and other licensees that operate under an on-premises Retailer's license or a temporary license may sell, serve or permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages until 4 am on January 1, 2003. The MPDC joins DC's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration in urging liquor establishments to check everyone's identification, impose restrictions on individuals who have too much to drink, and support both the designated driver and SoberRide programs. SoberRide will provide holiday revelers with free cab rides home (up to \$50) through 4 am on January 2 by calling (800) 200-TAXI (200-8294). AT&T Wireless users can dial #TAXI. Learn more about drunk driving laws in DC at:

*Want more details on the SoberRide program? Visit the Washington Regional Alcohol Program at:  
[www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com)*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm)

## MPDC OFFERS SAFETY TIPS TO VISITORS AT THIS YEAR'S WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW

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In addition to checking out the latest in new automobiles and accessories, visitors to this year's Washington Auto Show can get valuable information and resources on protecting their vehicles and their families, courtesy of the MPDC and the Maryland and Washington DC Anti-Car Theft (ACT) Committee. Detectives from the MPDC's Auto Theft Unit and other area law enforcement agencies will be passing out safety tips and information and offering demonstrations on how to reduce the chances of your vehicle being stolen. Unlike most other crime types, auto theft has increased in DC in recent years, rising more than 20 percent in 2001 alone. In addition, members of the MPDC's Community Outreach Section helped to provide free fingerprinting and photo ID's for children at the Ford Motor Company exhibit on Saturday, December 28, from 11 am until 3 pm. As part of Ford's "Commitment to Kids" program, free KidCare ID Kits were provided to parents who brought their children to the exhibit. The 2003 Washington Auto Show runs from Thursday, December 26, 2002, through Wednesday, January 1, 2003, in the Washington Convention Center, 900 9th Street, NW. For more details, go to:

*MPDC officers will be encouraging Auto Show visitors to sign up for the free "Watch Your Car" vehicle theft prevention program. Find out more information by calling (877) DC2-STOP (323-7867) or logging on to [mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm)*

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)

## MAKE A RESOLUTION FOR 2003: GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY POLICING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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As you are thinking about resolutions for 2003, don't forget about neighborhood safety and what you can do to help reduce crime in your community. Here are some suggestions from the MPDC: attend the regular PSA (Police Service Area) meetings in your community and join in problem-solving teams ... get involved in a citizen patrol, Neighborhood Watch, block captain or other similar program in your neighborhood (or if you don't have such a program, work with your neighbors to get one started) ... become active in your police district's Citizen Advisory Council ... help our young people by volunteering at a Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club or other similar facility ... do a home security check and make your home a harder target for criminals ... consider

*Start the year off right by attending the Mayor's Forum on Crime and Prevention, scheduled for Saturday, January 25, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Eastern Senior High School. For information, call the Mayor's Office of Community Outreach, (202) 442-8150.*

becoming a Metropolitan Police Reserve Officer. There are many ways – large and small – in which individual residents can make a big difference. Learn more about the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy and how you can get involved by browsing:

[mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtm)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**